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BOSTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and of the

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1955

1955
BOSTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Chairman of the Council :
Councillor S. E. MARSHALL, J.P.

Clerk of the Council :
S. M. FORMAN

Staff of the Public Health Department

Medical Officer of Health :
W. G. SMEATON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., Barrister-at-Law.

Senior Sanitary Inspector :
G. G. POPPLEWELL, Cert.S.I.B., Cert.R.S.I. (Meat &c.), M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspectors :
P. McPHUN, Cert.S.I.B., Cert.R.S.I. (Meat &c.), M.S.I.A.
R. LYALL, Cert.S.I.B., Cert.R.S.I. (Meat &c.), M.S.I.A.

Clerk : C. H. CUTHBERT

Medical Officer's Clerk : D. DADY

Rodent Control Officer : A. GRAVES

BOSTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Council Offices,

126 London Road,

Boston, Lincs.

To the Chairman and Members of the Boston Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Smith and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to report to you on the health of the Boston Rural District and on the work of the Public Health Department for the year 1955.

Again the health of the community has continued to be very satisfactory. From the vital statistics given on the following pages it will be seen that the figures on the whole compare favourably with those given for England and Wales.

Apart from an epidemic of Measles and an outbreak of Dysentery, particulars of which are given in the body of the Report, there has been no unusual incidence of infectious or other diseases during the year.

During the last few years Dysentery appears to have become more prevalent. Experience shows that the infection is mainly spread by direct or indirect personal contact although poor conditions of sewage disposal are undoubtedly a contributory factor. As a preventive measure the importance of personal and environmental hygiene and in particular scrupulous attention to the cleanliness of hands and nails cannot be overstressed.

The construction of new houses continues at a satisfactory rate and unfit property must now be dealt with under the Council's Slum Clearance Programme as outlined by the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954.

In conclusion, I wish to convey my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Council for their continued support, and to acknowledge the assistance given to me by the Senior Sanitary Inspector and all other officials of the Council.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Smith and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

W. G. SMEATON,

July, 1956.

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	..	..	..	..	..	..	84,398
Home Population (Registrar-General's mid-year estimate for 1955)	..	..	..	..	..	..	21,570
Number of inhabited houses	..	..	..	..	..	..	7,165
Estimated average number of persons per inhabited house							3.01
Estimated average number of persons per acre	..	..					.25
Estimated number of inhabited houses per acre	..	..					.08
Estimated product of a penny rate	..	..	..				£255
Rateable value as at 1st April, 1955	..	..	..				£65,721

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

The social conditions of the District have remained unchanged during the year.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population (crude)			16.5
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population (adjusted)			16.3
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	..	..	35.2
Death Rate per 1,000 of the population (crude)	..	..	10.6
Death Rate per 1,000 of the population (adjusted)	..	..	10.9
Maternal Mortality Rate (per 1,000 total births)	..	..	Nil

Death Rates of Infants under 1 year of age :

(a)	All infants per 1,000 live births		25.3
(b)	Legitimate infants, per 1,000 legitimate live births	..	26.1
(c)	Illegitimate infants, per 1,000 illegitimate live births		Nil

Death Rates of Infants under 4 weeks of age :

(a)	All infants per 1,000 live births		16.8
(b)	Legitimate infants, per 1,000 legitimate live births	..	17.4
(c)	Illegitimate infants, per 1,000 illegitimate live births		Nil

OBSERVATIONS ON VITAL STATISTICS.

In the following comments on the Vital Statistics both the crude birth and death rates are given together with the rates after adjustment by the Comparability Factors. These factors have been supplied by the Registrar-General, and are intended to afford a means of adjustment to allow for the differing age and sex distribution of the population in different areas. Consequently, the adjusted birth and death rates enable a more accurate comparison to be made with the corresponding rates in other areas.

It is also emphasised that undue significance should not be attached to rates which are based on very small numbers (*e.g.* infant mortality) and that a comparison of such rates with those in other areas, or with earlier years may have little statistical significance.

POPULATION :

The Registrar-General's estimate of the home population for the mid-year, 21,570 shows an increase over the figure for the previous year which was 21,360. The number of births for the year exceeded the number of deaths by 128.

BIRTHS :

A total of 356 live births (171 males, 185 females) were registered during 1955. This figure gives a crude birth rate of 16.5 and an adjusted rate of 16.3 per 1,000 of the population, a decrease on the rates for 1954 which were 18.9 and 18.7 respectively. The rate for the whole of England and Wales for 1955 was 15.0

The number of illegitimate live births was 11 (3 males, 8 females) which is 3.1% of the total live births. The total illegitimate live births in 1954 was 14.

STILL BIRTHS :

There were 13 still births registered (7 males, 6 females) giving a stillbirth rate of 35.2 per 1,000 total live and stillbirths, as compared with 35.9 in 1954. The rate for England and Wales for 1955 was 23.1.

MATERNAL MORTALITY :

There were no deaths under this heading in 1955.

INFANT MORTALITY :

There were 9 deaths of infants under one year of age (4 males, 5 females), the resulting death rate per 1,000 live births being 25.3 as compared with 22.3 for the previous year. The rate for the whole of England and Wales for 1955 was 24.9.

The total number of infant deaths under 4 weeks of age was 6 (3 males, 3 females) giving a death rate of 16.8 per 1,000 live births, as compared with 14.9 in 1954.

DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES :

The actual number of deaths allocated to the District after deduction of those occurring in non-residents and addition of deaths of residents which occurred outside the District was 228. The resulting crude death rate of 10.6 per 1,000 of the population and the adjusted rate of 10.9 show a slight increase on the corresponding rates for last year which were 9.9 and 10.2 respectively.

The figure for the whole of England and Wales for 1955 was 11.7.

CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE DISTRICT IN 1955.

No.	Cause of Death	Males Females	
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	—	1
2.	Tuberculosis, other	—	—
3.	Syphilitic disease	—	—
4.	Diphtheria	—	—
5.	Whooping Cough	—	—
6.	Meningococcal infections	—	—
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	1	—
8.	Measles	—	—
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	—
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	2	1
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	3	2

<i>No.</i>	<i>Cause of Death</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	4
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	4
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms ..	12	10
15.	Leukæmia, aleukæmia	—	2
16.	Diabetes	1	—
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system ..	19	25
18.	Coronary disease, angina	13	12
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	—	1
20.	Other heart disease	19	32
21.	Other circulatory disease	4	3
22.	Influenza	1	—
23.	Pneumonia	6	3
24.	Bronchitis	5	5
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system ..	1	1
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	2	—
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhœa	—	—
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	—	1
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	6	—
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—
31.	Congenital malformations	2	—
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases ..	8	12
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	1	—
34.	All other accidents	2	—
35.	Suicide	—	1
36.	Homicide and operations of war	—	—
ALL CAUSES		108	120

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

LABORATORY FACILITIES :

Advantage has again been taken of the Public Health Laboratory of the Medical Research Council at Lincoln. Samples of ice cream and water have been regularly submitted for bacteriological examination.

The Laboratories of the Royal Institute of Public Health and Hygiene, London, have continued to carry out chemical examinations of water samples on behalf of the Department.

Samples of effluents from the Council Housing Estates sewage works have been examined by the Department's Sanitary Inspectors using a Field Testing Outfit.

AMBULANCE SERVICE :

This service is provided and maintained by the Holland County Council through the County Transport Department.

SCHOOL MEDICAL AND MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE SERVICES :

These services are administered by the Holland County Council.

TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS :

Under the National Health Service Act, 1946, the provision and administration of Treatment Centres and Clinics is delegated to the Regional Hospital Board and the County Council.

The treatment of Scabies and similar complaints is carried out at the Health Centre, London Road, Boston, which is under the control of the County Council. Further details of the number of cases of Scabies dealt with will be found in the following section of this Report.

NURSING IN THE HOME :

In accordance with the provisions of the National Health Service Act, 1946, the home nursing service is under the control of the Local Health Authority.

HOSPITALS :

All Hospitals in the area are under the control of the Boston Group Hospital Management Committee of the Sheffield Regional Hospital Board. Details of the facilities available in Boston and District are as follows :

Boston General Hospital — Acute General.

London Road Hospital, Boston — Orthopædic and Acute General.

Boston Isolation Hospital and Sanatorium — Infectious and Chest Diseases.

Wyberton West Hospital, Boston — Medical and Maternity.

Woodlands Court, Kirton — Aged Sick.

Freiston Hall Children's Hospital — Sick Children.

Bargate Physiotherapy Centre, Boston — Physiotherapy.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948, SECTION 47 — REMOVAL TO SUITABLE PREMISES OF PERSONS IN NEED OF CARE AND ATTENTION :

No action was taken by the Council under this Section.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The following table shows the total number of infectious diseases notified during the year, the numbers admitted to hospital, and the total number of deaths :

Notifiable Diseases during the Year 1955.

Disease	Cases Notified	Confirmed Cases	Cases admitted to Hospital	Deaths
Acute Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	1	1	1	1
Chicken Pox	275	275	5	Nil
Dysentery	69	69	Nil	Nil
Erysipelas	3	3	1	Nil
Food Poisoning	8	7	Nil	Nil
Measles	402	402	2	Nil
Pneumonia	21	21	1	2
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	1	1	Nil
Scabies	1	1	Nil	Nil
Scarlet Fever	45	45	1	Nil
Whooping Cough	33	33	Nil	Nil

The number of notifiable diseases occurring in the District during the year increased, a total of 859 cases being reported as compared with 393 in 1954. Details of the diseases in which the incidence differed appreciably are as follows :

	1955	1954
Measles	402	10
Whooping Cough	33	153
Chicken Pox	275	166
Dysentery	69	12

Towards the end of October an outbreak of Sonne Dysentery occurred in the northern part of the District, the majority of the cases being centred in the Benington area. All possible measures were taken to control the spread of infection and owing to the large number of school children reported with symptoms it was considered necessary to close Benington school for a short time.

The epidemic reached its peak during November and, whilst several families were investigated in the following weeks, only a few persistent cases were outstanding at the end of the year.

During the course of the outbreak 68 families were investigated and specimens of faeces were collected from 236 persons, 69 of whom proved to be positive cases. The total number of specimens submitted for examination was 782.

During the year the Sanitary Inspectors made 528 visits in connection with investigation and control of infectious diseases and 7 disinfections were carried out.

TUBERCULOSIS :

Cases notified within the Rural District come under the control of Dr. A. M. Forrest, Chest Physician, South Lincolnshire Area.

The following table gives details of new cases notified and deaths occurring during the year.

Age Groups	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory M.	F.	Non-Respiratory M.	F.	Respiratory M.	F.	Non-Respiratory M.	F.
0—1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—15	1	—	2	1	—	—	—	—
15—25	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35	2	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—45	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—55	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Over 65	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	5	6	2	1	—	—	—	—

TREATMENT OF SCABIES :

Facilities for the cleansing of persons requiring treatment are provided by the Holland County Council, the cost of such treatments in respect of persons other than school children being charged to the District Council. Should medical practitioners request treatment for patients, details of notifications are immediately passed to the County Council thus ensuring that infected persons receive early treatment.

The only case notified during the year was treated at the Boston Cleansing Station.

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA.

All immunisation work within the District is under the jurisdiction of the Holland County Council. Below are given details of the number of children immunised during the year :

Under 1 year	203
1 and under 5 years	106
5 — 14 years	22
	331
Number of Booster Injections	280

The percentage of children immunised in relation to the child population is as follows :

Under 1 year	17.6 %
1 and under 5 years	74.7 %
5 — 14 years	78.4 %

These figures remain encouraging but the public are again reminded that full advantage should be taken of these services.

PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY.

I am indebted to Mr. W. R. Beardall, the Council's Water Engineer, for the following report on the Rural Water Supply.

Statistics.

Length of mains laid during the year	6,548 yds.
Total length of mains in use	367 miles
Domestic consumption of water	127,314,000 galls.
Average daily consumption per house	68 galls.
Estimated consumption per person per day	14.6 galls.
Number of domestic consumers	5,277
Number of properties supplied by meter	1,570

Particulars of number of dwellings supplied.

<i>Parish</i>	<i>Dwellings</i>
Algarkirk	169
Amber Hill	136
Bicker	245
Benington	163
Brothertoft	122
Butterwick	165
Fishtoft	775
Fosdyke	136
Frampton	365
Freiston	343
Harts Grounds and Pelhams Lands	25
Kirton	973
Leverton	189
Old Leake	443
Sutterton	345
Swineshead	566
Wigtoft	163
Wrangle	377
Wyberton	784

Water Analysis.

19 samples of water drawn from the mains at various points in the District were submitted by the Public Health Department for analysis to the Royal Institute of Public Health and Hygiene or to the Public Health Laboratory at Lincoln. In every case the result showed the water to be highly satisfactory.

Representative results of analyses are as follows :

- (a) BACTERIOLOGICAL, taken at Low Road, Wyberton.
Probable number of coliform bacilli, MacConkey 2 days, 37°C.
0 per 100ml.

- (b) CHEMICAL, taken at Sutterton Water Tower.

<i>Chemical characters</i>	<i>Parts per 1,000,000</i>
Total Solids dried at 100°C.	468
Loss on ignition (after re-carbonating)	36
Chlorine in Chlorides	26
„ × 1.647—Sodium Chloride	42.8
Nitrites	Not detected
Nitrogen as Nitrates	0.4
Saline Ammonia	0.006
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.048
Oxygen absorbed in 3 hours at 37°C.	0.35
Hardness — Total	300
„ Temporary	200
„ Permanent	100
Poisonous Metals — Lead	Not detected
„ „ Copper	0.5

REPORT OF THE SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR ON THE SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

HOUSING.

SUMMARY OF NEW DWELLINGS COMPLETED DURING 1955.

Council Houses.

Bicker ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Benington ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Butterwick ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	26
Fishtoft ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Fosdyke ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Freiston ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Kirton ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	32
Old Leake ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	18
Sutterton ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Swineshead ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Wrangle ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	26
Wyberton ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
							139
Private Enterprise ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	68
Housing (Financial Provisions) Act ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
							211

INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES.

Number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects. (Public Health and Housing Acts)	57
Number found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ..	44
Number found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	13

REMEDY OF DEFECTS.

Number of informal notices served	12
Number of Statutory notices served under the Public Health Act, 1936	2
Number of Statutory notices served under the Housing Act, 1936, Section 9	Nil

ACTION UNDER SECTION 11, HOUSING ACT, 1936.

Number of houses upon which action was taken ..	52
Number of Demolition Orders made	7
Number of Closing Orders made	32
Number of Undertakings accepted stating that the premises would not again be used for human habitation until rendered fit in all respects	13
Number of houses which have been rendered fit in all respects and upon which the Undertaking previously accepted has been cancelled	Nil
Number of dwellings demolished during the year ..	5

DRAINAGE.

In Wyberton parish, the second portion of the Sewage Scheme serving Tytton Lane East, Solway Avenue, Yarborough Road and parts of the London Road is now complete. By the end of the year, 83% of the properties in these areas had their drainage systems connected to the main sewers.

In Fishtoft parish, the sewage disposal works and the sewers in respect of Blackthorn Lane, Lindis Road, Woodthorpe Avenue, Eastwood Road, Clifton Road and parts of Church Green Road are now in operation. Approximately 25% of the properties affected have their drainage systems connected to the main sewers.

The small sewage disposal plant serving the Council's estate at Church Lane, Wrangle came into use in January and the one serving Commonsides Estate at Old Leake in July.

The Council's Dennis Estate at Kirton and Upsall Road Estate at Butterwick were sewered, the effluent discharging into open lagoons. These lagoons are excavations measuring about 20 yards square and about 3 feet deep, the earth removed being banked around the sides. Crude sewage from the estates is run off into these lagoons. A certain amount of the liquid evaporates and some soaks into the ground. Owing to climatic conditions this evaporation is negligible and during periods of heavy rainfall the position will no doubt be considerably aggravated.

These lagoons are only a temporary measure pending the provision of proper disposal arrangements and it is to be hoped that the installation of the proper plant will not be long delayed, as I feel sure there is bound to be serious nuisance caused in the vicinity of the lagoons.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

The removal of household refuse has continued to average 9 days between collections, though, once again I must stress, not without considerable difficulty.

With the increased number of new houses and more existing houses requiring this service, maintaining this standard is made more difficult. During the year under consideration, 552 additional bins were provided representing an increase of 9% on the figures for 1954.

Much delay is caused the workmen by the fact that receptacles used by occupiers are often not of the approved type. All kinds of receptacles have been put into use including old buckets, baths, oil drums, dolly tubs and cardboard cartons. These are frequently difficult to handle and on occasions have caused physical injury to the men. In a few instances formal action was necessary to secure proper sanitary dustbins for some properties and many informal notices were served on Owners requesting them to provide bins.

In the early part of the year, the Council's attention was drawn to the serious position regarding the vehicles in use on this service, and it was decided, after a demonstration by various firms vehicles at the Public Cleansing Conference Display and a demonstration in the District by a vehicle on loan, to place an order for a Shelvoke and Drewry fore and aft tipper for delivery as early as possible in 1956. This is a large capacity (16 cubic yard), diesel engine vehicle which should to some extent relieve the unsatisfactory position caused by the age and restricted capacity of the existing vehicles.

Disposal of refuse is by tipping in pits and on low lying land. Every effort is made to control these tips but owing to the fact that soil for covering is almost unobtainable locally, it is necessary to utilise the ash content for top dressing so far as this is possible.

Permission has been obtained from the Butterwick Parish Council to use the area known as "The Weirs" at Butterwick as a refuse tip. Before tipping can commence certain drainage work is necessary. The Witham Fourth Drainage Board has been requested to alter the position of the existing watercourse and the Council has agreed to contribute £200 towards the cost of this work. It is anticipated this tip will be ready for use in 1956. This will considerably relieve the problem of disposal in the North of the District for a number of years.

The position in the South of the District is not so satisfactory, with the exception of the Swineshead parish. The present refuse disposal point at Frampton will be completed during 1956 and then except for one or two small tips, which may serve for a further year or so, there is at the moment no other suitable site at the Council's Disposal.

It is estimated that approximately 5,000 tons of refuse was disposed of during the year. The approximate cost of this service was £1/3/2 per house and the cost per bin per collection 7½d.

SANITARY PAIL EMPTYING.

This Service is carried out by two Cesspool emptying type vehicles each having a team of driver and two assistants. The older vehicle referred to in the report for 1954 was disposed of and replaced by a vehicle no longer required on the Cesspool Emptying service.

Pail emptying is one of the most unpleasant duties performed by the Department's workmen. A certain amount of unpleasantness is also caused when the work is in progress, to the occupiers of the premises, and to passers by ; unfortunately this is unavoidable so long as these sanitary pails exist.

Almost two thousand dwellings take advantage of this service and the regularity of collection at 5 to 6 day intervals has been maintained.

Disposal of pail contents is by composting in "pans" of straw at various points in the District. The finished compost has considerable manurial value and there is no real difficulty in obtaining disposal sites at present.

The approximate cost of the service per house was £1/19/4 and the cost per house per collection 7½d.

CESSPOOL EMPTYING.

At the beginning of the year three vehicles were in use on this service and a fourth was in reserve. In April this fourth vehicle was transferred to the Pail Emptying service and with the coming into operation of the Fishtoft Sewage Disposal Works it was possible to maintain the Cesspool Emptying Service using two vehicles only, the third being held in reserve.

With the connection of many of the properties in parts of Fishtoft and Wyberton to the Public Sewers, it is hoped that before the end of 1956 it may be possible to reduce the period between free emptyings of cesspools from 18 months to 12 months. If it is found possible to do this, the improved service to properties not on the line of the sewer will be welcomed by occupiers, as instances are still occurring of drainage difficulties necessitating the emptying of cesspools on a chargeable basis, resulting in hardship in some cases.

There are now 15 sewage disposal plants requiring to be desludged by the Cesspool Emptying vehicles. In view of the Rivers Board's insistence on the Royal Commission's standard for sewage effluents each plant is now desludged once in every seven weeks. This is an improvement on previous years when the best that could be achieved was one desludging in nine weeks.

During the year, 1,526 premises were given a free service and 541 were visited on a chargeable basis. The total work involved the removal and disposal of 6,172 vehicle loads of effluent, about 3¼ million gallons.

Whilst the sewerage of parts of the parishes of Wyberton and Fishtoft has improved the position regarding the number of cesspools requiring to be emptied, the disposal of cesspool contents still causes a considerable amount of anxiety as, for the greater part of the year, all cesspool contents and sludge from the sewage disposal plants have to be disposed of into the Boston Borough Sewers at Mount Bridge Depot. At certain times of the year when the weather is very dry, it is possible to dispose of some of this matter on farm land. This method depends entirely on a dry spell occurring at a time when bare land, such as stubble, is available and the willingness of farmers to co-operate. Advantage is always taken of these occasions but they are few and seldom last for long.

This means that the emptying of cesspools and plants in the more remote parts of the District is an expensive operation both in time and transport costs.

It will also be seen that the present method of disposal depends largely on the continuance of the Corporation of Boston allowing the use of their sewers for this purpose. In the event of this permission being withdrawn, the position would be most serious, and it is felt that consideration should be given to the provision of suitable alternative disposal arrangements. It is suggested that the possibility of utilising the Sewage Disposal Works at Frampton and Fishtoft for this purpose be again investigated. Disposal at these works would effect a large saving in time and money in addition to making the Council less dependent on its neighbouring authority.

SALVAGE.

A trailer is drawn by each refuse collection vehicle for carrying materials suitable for salvage. The collection of salvage is very necessary for satisfactory disposal as well as for the revenue produced. If it were not collected as salvage the greater part would be placed in the dustbins causing them to be quickly filled and making disposal on the tips very difficult and expensive.

Collections during the year increased in weight and value. With a good demand for paper salvage the price rose from £7/10/0 to £8, though towards the end of the year there was evidence of some falling off in demand and it may be that prices offered will tend to fall in the coming months.

Two factors, the introduction of the bonus scheme for the employees and the continued co-operation of householders in keeping paper and textiles separate from refuse, have been largely responsible for the increased quantity available for sale.

Details of materials sold during 1955 are as follows :

	<i>Tons Cwts. Qrs.</i>			£	s.	d.
Mixed Waste Paper	..	240	17	3	1897	10 1
Woollens		..		2	4	12 6
Rags		..	5	0	2	156 4 0
Bagging		..	3	2	1	37 3 0
		249	1	0	2095	9 7

GENERAL.

All cleansing vehicles undergo general maintenance once a fortnight. Repair work is carried out by the Council's mechanics. The present arrangements whereby the vehicles are garaged at different points, some at premises near the centre of Boston and others in the open at the Council's depot, are unsatisfactory, making control difficult and causing delay in the winter months due to freezing up, particularly of the cesspool vehicles.

It is hoped these difficulties will be overcome when the proposed new depot is completed.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK.

Number of Distributors of milk registered		16
Number of Dealers licensed for the sale of Pasteurised or Sterilised Milk		16
Number of Dealers licensed for the sale of Tuberculin Tested milk		8

ICE CREAM.

Number of premises registered for the manufacture of Ice Cream		1
Number of premises registered for the sale of Ice cream	..	51

Samples were taken from various establishments serving Ice Cream to the Public and forwarded to the Public Health Laboratories at Lincoln for bacteriological examination. The number of samples placed in each of the provisional grades is as follows :

Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4
10	2	Nil	Nil

ICE LOLLIES.

No samples of this commodity were taken.

SHOPS AND FOOD PREPARING PREMISES.

Owing to increased work on housing inspection and meat inspection, it has not been possible to carry out as many visits to food preparing premises as one would wish, but every effort has been made to visit the most important premises.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

There are six licensed slaughterhouses in the Council's District, as follows :

S. F. Handson, Wrangle

F. Holland, Old Leake

J. Watson, Freiston

Pendennis Butcheries Ltd.,

Frampton

C. Dawson & Sons,
Swineshead

J. H. McCartney & Sons,

Sutterton

In addition, the slaughterhouse premises at Benington, referred to in the 1954 Annual Report, for which the Council refused to issue a licence, have been in use since July, 1955, the Magistrates having reversed the decision of the Council, though at the end of the year, as information asked for by the Council concerning certain formalities was not to hand no licence had been issued.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS INSPECTION.

(a) MEAT.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Total
Number killed (as notified)	720	1	6	1516	1420	3663
Number Inspected ..	720	1	6	1516	1420	3663
All diseases except Tuberculosis & Cysticerci Whole carcasses condemned	1	—	—	3	6	10
Part carcasses condemned	2	—	1	—	10	13
Offal condemned ..	94	—	2	82	298	476
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis & Cysticerci	13.47%	—	50%	5.6%	22.11%	
Tuberculosis only						
Whole carcasses condemned	2	—	—	—	2	4
Part carcasses condemned	6	—	—	—	38	44
Offal condemned	73	—	—	—	69	142
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	11.25%	—	—	—	7.67%	
Cysticercosis						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	6	—	—	—	—	
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	2	—	—	—	—	
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—

Total weight of meat condemned — 4 tons 12 cwts. 7 lbs.

(b) OTHER FOODS.

The following unsound food was condemned and suitably disposed of

- 6 - 2lb. 3oz. tins Italian Peeled Tomatoes.
- 2 - 8oz. tins Beans in Tomato Sauce.
- 1 - 12oz. tin Minced Beef Loaf.
- 4 - 12oz. tins Luncheon Meat.
- 2 - 4lb. tins Pork Luncheon Meat.
- 20 - 12oz. tins South American Corned Beef.

FOOD POISONING.

Seven sporadic cases of food poisoning were confirmed in the District during the year. In six cases Salmonella Typhi-murium was the infecting agent and in the remaining case Salmonella Anatum was isolated. The usual investigations were made but in all cases no suspected foodstuffs were recovered.

COUNTY OF HOLLAND CLEAN FOOD CAMPAIGN.

The Clean Food Campaign continues but there appears to be little interest shown either by the traders or by the general public. There have been no applications for Clean Food certificates during the year. As mentioned elsewhere in this report, pressure of work caused by additional duties has severely curtailed the number of inspections made at food premises, but it is hoped that with the coming into force of the new Food Hygiene Regulations in 1956 much more attention will be given to this class of premises.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

One factory in the District operates as a Knacker's Yard. Animal matter is processed into fats and artificial manures. In view of the situation of the premises and the nature of the work carried out, there is a possibility that complaints may become more frequent as time passes. With the building of Council Estates and private houses closer to this factory, the isolation it previously enjoyed is rapidly diminishing.

The Council's Rodent Control Officer visits these premises weekly at the request of the management to ensure rodent infestation is kept at a minimum.

MEASURES AGAINST PEST INFESTATION.

2,148 surveys were made by the Rodent Control Officer and where his investigations revealed the existence of a serious nuisance further inspections were made by the Sanitary Inspector. These surveys included agricultural properties, business premises and private houses. Weekly visits to and treatment of the Council's Refuse Tips, Pail Disposal Points and Salvage Depot were also carried out.

In spite of wide publicity it is regretted that it is still necessary to write to threshing contractors and farmers regarding the regulations concerning the threshing and dismantling of ricks, and the eradication of vermin.

Number of areas treated by

(a) Poisoning	..	..	..	..	..	235
(b) Gassing	..	..	..	..	..	2
Number of premises treated on a chargeable basis	..					9
Number of premises given a free service	..	..				228

OTHER PESTS AND VERMIN.

Minor infestations of Ants and Fleas were satisfactorily dealt with.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

Number of Moveable Dwellings licensed :

Caravans	..	..	..	..	..	47
Converted Buses	..	..	..	..	..	1
Vans on Council's Site	..	..	..	..	..	15

The Council's Caravan Site at Saundergate Lane, Wyberton serves a very useful purpose as temporary housing accommodation.

With the exception of caravans on the Council's site, licences for caravans are renewed annually on the 1st July but before any licence is renewed a detailed inspection is made of the van to ensure that it satisfies the requirements of the Public Health Act.

STORAGE OF PETROLEUM SPIRIT AND CARBIDE OF CALCIUM.

The Senior Sanitary Inspector is the appointed Petroleum Officer under the Petroleum Regulations. The number of installations licensed at the end of the year was as follows :

PETROLEUM SPIRIT.

Below 500 gallons	..	..	..	52
500 to 1000 gallons	..	..	..	141
Over 1000 gallons	..	..	..	24

CARBIDE OF CALCIUM.

Below $8\frac{3}{4}$ cwts.	..	..	..	2
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The Council has not formerly adopted any conditions regarding the granting of Petroleum Spirit Licences. Consequently the method of installing underground petrol tanks varies from proper brick and/or concrete chambers to the insertion of the tanks directly into the ground.

In view of the complex position it is considered highly desirable that the Council should consider formally adopting a Schedule of conditions applicable to the storing of Petroleum Spirit in this District, made under Section I of the Petroleum (Regulations) Acts 1928 and 1936 and in order to bring it into line with the adjoining Local Authority.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948.

The following tables show the inspections made and defects found at factories in the District during 1955.

Table 1. INSPECTIONS.

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	6	1	Nil	Nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) above in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	67	18	Nil	Nil
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ..	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total ..	73	19	Nil	Nil

Table 2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found			
	Found	Remedied	Referred	
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector
Want of cleanliness	1	1	Nil	Nil
Overcrowding (S.2)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Unreasonable temperature	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Inadequate ventilation	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Ineffective drainage of floors	1	1	Nil	Nil
Sanitary Conveniences :				
(a) Insufficient	2	Nil	Nil	1
(b) Unsuitable or defective	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(c) Not separate for sexes	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Other offences against the Act (excluding out-workers' premises)	2	1	Nil	Nil
Total	6	3	Nil	1

MEANS OF ESCAPE IN CASE OF FIRE — Section 34.

The Senior Sanitary Inspector is the appointed Officer for carrying out inspections at factories which come within the scope of this section.

OUT-WORKERS' PREMISES.

So far as can be ascertained no out-work is undertaken in the District.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS AND VISITS CARRIED OUT BY THE SANITARY INSPECTORS, ADDITIONAL TO THOSE MENTIONED ELSEWHERE IN THIS REPORT.

Housing Acts	348
Public Health Act, 1936	40
Housing General	293
Overcrowding	—
Moveable Dwellings	86
Stables and Piggeries	14
Dirty Houses	18
Nuisances	62
Infectious Diseases and Food Poisoning	535
Drainage	755
Sewage Sampling	10
Dyke Pollution and overflowing Cesspools	79
Rodent Control	4
Insect Pests	4
Provision of Refuse Bins	11
Control of Refuse Tips	139
Public Cleansing Services	249
Salvage	311
Slaughterhouses	22
Food Premises	40
Meat Inspection	849
Petroleum Storage	110
National Assistance Act, 1948	—
Miscellaneous	175

